

News Release

WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT

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SBA to Honor West Virginia's Top Small Businesses

Awards Dinner in Morgantown on May 29

CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA — Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. The U.S. Small Business Administration's West Virginia District Director, Judy McCauley is excited to announce the best of the best for the 2013 West Virginia Small Business Week Awards.

- **Small Business Person of the Year:** Diane Lewis, president and CEO, Action Facilities Management, Inc., Monongalia County.
- Small Business Exporter of the Year: Timothy Warden, president, Engart America Inc., Raleigh County.
- **Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year:** Jonathan Bellingham, Marketing Manager, Capon Springs and Farms, Inc., Hampshire County.
- Home-Based Business Champion: Mathew Thomas, Thomas | Work, Greenbrier County.
- Minority Small Business Champion: Christina Lundberg, business coach and center manager, Small Business Development Center – Eastern Panhandle.

The award winners will be honored during a dinner on Wednesday May 29, 6:00 p.m. at the Erickson Alumni Center in conjunction with the 2013 Teaming to Win Conference. McCauley invites everyone to join her in recognizing these small business leaders. Registration and payment can be made at www.teamingtowin.org.

"You have heard the statistics - more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year," said McCauley. "In West Virginia, small business is BIG business, let's celebrate these visionaries, innovators, and entrepreneurs who are making our state a great place to live and work."

West Virginia's top small business SBA lenders will also be recognized during the celebration: **West Virginia 2012 Community Bank of the Year** is The First State Bank in Barboursville, which approved 31 SBA-guaranteed loans in West Virginia totaling just over \$18.1 million; **West Virginia 2012 Lender of the Year** is Huntington National Bank, which approved 52 SBA-guaranteed loans for over \$9.9 million.

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The mission of the SBA is to aid, counsel, assist and promote the interests of small businesses by providing financial, procurement and business development assistance and advocating on their behalf within the government. All SBA programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.